

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS—NOVEMBER 10, 2020

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated GRR User Guide • Procedures Manual Available in Avocet and Updated NAEP Table • Remote Administration Pilot • Guidebook: Exploring ACCESS for ELLs Data • Upcoming Opportunities • Tech Update 	<p>Nov. 23–Dec. 11: In WIDA AMS, districts indicate the number of online testers taking ACCESS in grades 1–12, and order test materials for paper ACCESS materials</p> <p>Nov. 30: Pretest Editing opens in Test WES</p>

Updated GRR User Guide

The GRR system is a secure MDE website where district staff enter reimbursement requests for eligible students for nationally recognized college entrance exams: the ACT and SAT. In order to support districts who administered the ACT or SAT this fall, MDE has posted an updated *Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) User Guide* on the [GRR webpage](#). The reimbursement reports that districts use to verify their reimbursement requests will not be available until spring, following the schedule of a typical year. If the district is offering a school-day administration in fall 2020 (i.e., for students unable to test last spring) and again in spring 2021 (i.e., for students already expected to participate this school year), reimbursement requests can be entered in either of the following ways:

- After each administration, once the respective results from the fall or spring exam are received
- All at once in the spring after test results from both administrations have been received

As long as all requests are entered by the Sept. 17, 2021 deadline, it does not matter when they are entered as both administrations this school year are considered part of the fiscal year 2021 requests.

MDE will post a GRR training in the Training Management System (TMS) on Nov. 20. For districts who want to view the training before entering reimbursement requests this fall, MDE recommends downloading the user guide first in order to follow along when viewing the training.

Note: Refer to Chapter 2 of the [Procedures Manual](#) for more information on offering students these exams.

[Back to Top](#)

Procedures Manual Available in Avocet and Updated NAEP Table

The *Procedures Manual* is now available in [Avocet](#) on PearsonAccess Next. Avocet provides quick access to information across a range of assessment resources. Avocet has the functionality to search the full text of documents and resources and includes an online alphabetical index of assessment topics found within these resources. No sign-in is required.

Updated NAEP Table

The *NAEP Schedule of Operational Assessments* table on page 36 of the *Procedures Manual* has been updated to include the scheduled administrations for 2022; this row was blank in the version initially posted.

[Back to Top](#)

Remote Administration Pilot

The following article was provided in the Nov. 6 Superintendent Mail and is included in the *Assessment Update* for DAC awareness:

Given the current landscape of virtual, in-person, and hybrid approaches that districts and schools are implementing, there is a need for assessment solutions that reliably and equitably support statewide assessment delivery in a variety learning scenarios.

We are conducting a feasibility study on different approaches for remote test administration, including a pilot of remote proctoring software to learn more about the student experience during a remotely proctored assessment. The study is scheduled to occur in **November and December**.

The study will combine TestNav test delivery (which students currently use) along with remote proctoring software utilizing a Chrome extension (which is not available on iPads). The software will use audio and video monitoring during the student's test. All recorded audio and video will be treated as Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and stored securely, using zero-knowledge encryption. No student data leave devices until they are encrypted. Only authorized school, state or research personnel will have access to student data.

[Back to Top](#)

Guidebook: Exploring ACCESS for ELLs Data

A new resource, *Guidebook: Exploring ACCESS for ELLs Data*, is available on the [District Resources page](#) under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading. The guide provides introductory information about the ACCESS, the types of data provided, where to access the data, what typical performance over time looks like,

and how to interpret and use data in meaningful and appropriate ways. The guide also provides guidance for systematically exploring the assessment results and the Progress Toward English Language Proficiency indicator used in the North Star Accountability System, and suggestions and considerations for visually presenting the data.

[Back to Top](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

New DAC Q&A Registration

The next New DAC Q&A webinar is Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 2–3 p.m. Experienced DACs are welcome to attend as well. [Register for the New DAC Q&A Webinar](#). Details for joining the webinar are provided once participants register.

The prerequisites for this webinar are the following chapters of the [Procedures Manual](#):

- Chapter 2: Overview of Statewide Assessments
- Chapter 3: Roles and Responsibilities for Testing
- Chapter 5: Responsible and Ethical Practices to Maintain Test Security and Test Score Integrity

After reading the chapters, [submit questions for the New DAC Q&A webinar](#). MDE will answer these questions during the webinar.

WIDA Webinar: Managing Students in WIDA AMS

WIDA will host the *Managing Students in WIDA AMS* webinar on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 1–2 p.m. [Join the *Managing Students in WIDA AMS* webinar on Nov. 12](#). The webinar is designed for Test Coordinators and will provide how-to information on student demographic information and accommodations.

WIDA Webinar: Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators

WIDA will host the *Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators* webinar on Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 1–2 p.m. [Join the *Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators* webinar on Nov. 17](#). The webinar is designed for Test Administrators and will provide an overview of Kindergarten ACCESS, including the following topics:

- Scheduling
- Basics of administration
- Review of training resources

Teaching and Learning Led by Evidence Webinar Series

There is one remaining session in the webinar series on classroom assessments. Participants earn one continuing education unit (CEU) for each session, and registration is required (see the link in the table below). If you have not attended any previous sessions, MDE still encourages you to attend this session if it is of interest. Please contact Kendra at kendra.olsen@state.mn.us with any questions.

This series is scheduled to resume again in January with additional webinars designed for school leaders or teachers who want to continue sharpening their assessment and data literacy skills. Future topics will focus on areas related to statewide assessments, including how to use publicly available data from MDE, interpreting and appropriately using MCA scores, and how the MCA is developed.

Note: Recordings of the previous webinars and additional information about upcoming webinars are now available on the [Request Professional Development page of Testing 1, 2, 3](#).

SESSION #	DATE AND TIME	TOPIC AND DETAILS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES
5	Thursday, Nov. 12, 4–5 p.m.	Assessment of Learning – Summative Assessments for your Classroom Register for Session 5	Participants will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve alignment of classroom assessments to standards• Increase the rigor of questions to eliminate student misconceptions• Ensure assessments measure the extent students have mastered the standards for an instructional unit

Webinar: Science MCA-IV and Constructed-Response Question Types

The Science MCA-IV, which is based on the 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science, will first be administered in spring 2024. To prepare for this new assessment, MDE is investigating whether constructed response (open-ended) question types are appropriate for assessing students on these standards. This webinar will explain why we are exploring constructed response questions. We will also give an overview of the timeline for including them on the MCA-IV, as well as the steps needed to determine the appropriateness of these questions on the new assessments.

The same presentation will be available at two different times:

- [Register for Nov. 18 Science MCA-IV webinar](#); this webinar is scheduled for 3–3:30 p.m.
- [Register for Dec. 1 Science MCA-IV webinar](#); this webinar is scheduled for 4–4:30 p.m.

Please share these webinar links with district staff who may be interested in assessment of the science standards and this spring's field testing during the operational administration.

[Back to Top](#)

Tech Update

Supported System Requirements for ACCESS and WIDA Screener Online

Updated Supported System Requirements for ACCESS for ELLs Online and WIDA Screener Online have been posted to WIDA AMS and in the [Secure Portal Download Library](#). These system requirements are valid for October 2020 through February 2021. Major changes include:

- DRC has ended support for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 as of Oct. 31.
- iPad OS 14: DRC anticipates moving iPad OS 14.x to full support in November 2020.
- iPad OS 12: With Apple's introduction of iPad OS 14, DRC will end support for iPad OS 12 in December 2020.
- DRC has added Ubuntu 20.04 LTS to the list of fully supported operating systems.

Contact DRC Customer Support at wida@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615 with any questions.

[Back to Top](#)

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Minnesota Department of Education

education.mn.gov > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing

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